# Senate committee is 'interested' in Carrafa death, CIA connection

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ROCKVILLE — A chain of events involving a gangland-style murder, an apparent suicide, a man's disappearance, and the theft of three antique cars valued at close to $200,000 are still being investigated today by the organized crime unit of Montgomery Police.

Whether or not there is any underworld connection between these incidents and the deaths of John Roselli, Chicago mobster, is undetermined. But police here are interested in the similarities in the murder of Roselli and Eugene Carrafa, the Derwood antique car dealer whose swollen body washed up off Staten Island, N.Y., Aug. 4.

Roselli's body was discovered wrapped in chains several days after Carrafa's in an oil drum off Biscayne Bay, Fla. Carrafa was found strangled and wrapped in padlocked chains weighted with anchors.

The FBI has now entered the investigation into Roselli's killing and the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence has admitted they are "interested" in Carrafa's murder and may conduct a probe into its possible connection with Roselli's, who may have played some part in reported CIA attempts to assassinate Cuban leader Fidel Castro.

Chronologically the web of incidents, which may be coincidental or could represent key pieces of a puzzle, date back to last year. Another Chicago ganster Sam Giacana, was murdered at his home at that time before he had a chance to testify in Washington concerning the Castro assassination plot.

At the same time, Carrafa was operating Gino's Classic Cars in Abingdon, where he had bought a building on U.S. 40 just east of Long Bar Harbor Rd. in March 1975, one month after his employer's business was closed by U.S. Internal Revenue agents for non-payment of back taxes.

About a month ago, Pat Sherman, who worked for Carrafa at Classic Cars, quit or was fired after a reported argument with his boss. Sherman's mail has been held at the Abingdon Post Office since his disappearance and police have been unable to locate him for questioning.

Following a story which appeared in last Saturday's edition of the Frederick Post reporting Sherman's disappearance, a call was received at the news room from a woman who said Sherman was alive and with her, but she said no more.

On July 21, an obituary notice appeared involving the death in Chicago of Janice Mae Pieccerelli. Cause of death was listed by Chicago Police as suicide but the Chicago coroner said police are definitely investigating her death. He also said that final results of the autopsy would not be available for "five or six weeks" when the inquest is scheduled to be held.

Mrs. Piccerelli's former husband, Louis, Carrafa, and Carrafa's partner, Jay Knohl, of Seagate, N.Y. all served in the Marine Corps together, according to sources. Mrs. Piccerelli was the known companion of Chicago racketeers, including Giancana's lieutenants, sources said. The cremated remains of

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Mrs. Piccerelli were delivered to the Hines-Rinaldi Funeral Home in Silver Spring for burial.

Two days after Mrs. Piccerelli's death, on July 23, the antique cars were reported stolen by Carrafa from his Abingdon agency. That same day was also the last time Carrafa's brother, Matthew, said he saw Carrafa alive. In a telephone interview from his Waterbury, Conn. home last week, Matthew said he visited Gino in Derwood on the way back from vacation in Orlando, Fla.

One of Mrs. Piccerelli's daughters, according to the obituary notice, lives in Orlando. Mrs. Piccerelli's funeral was held here on July 26. On July 28, Gino Carrafa left his Derwood home in his Continental Mark III to visit Knohl in New York, apparently to discuss the purchase of an antique car, according to his wife Carol. That was 11 days before Roselli's body was discovered floating off Biscayne Bay.

On Aug. 1, Mrs. Carrafa reported her husband missing to Montgomery Police and said she had received word from Knohl that her husband was on his way to California to buy the car.

During the same week Knohl was arrested by New York Police, charged with sodomy, held in jail for two or three days, and then released on $150,000 bond, police said.

On Aug. 4, Carrafa's body washed ashore. When she arrived in New York to identify the remains, Mrs. Carrafa denied the body was her husband and burst into tears. Carrafa was positively identified later through dental records. Mrs. Carrafa still insists she does not know who killed her husband or why.

Carrafa was buried on July 13 in Waterbury. One of those who attended the funeral was David Knohl of Archwood Way, Olney, Jay's brother.

Still missing is Carrafa's Mark III, the motive for the murder, Pat Sherman, and a clue to the reason for Mrs. Picerrelli's apparent suicide, perhaps an overdose. And police are still wondering what possible connection Classic Car could have had with the mafia.